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ELECTORAL TIMETABLE OFFICIALLY APPROVED BY GOVERNMENT

PY021928 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1405 GMT 2 Feb 79 PY

[Text] La Paz, 2 Feb (LATIN)--The Presidential Press Secretariat has officially announced that the government has approved the decree establishing the electoral timetable which will regulate the democratization process imposed by the military junta.

After a meeting lasting several hours yesterday, the Council of Ministers, headed by Gen David Padilla, approved the document which establishes important stages for Bolivia's return to a "state of law" on 6 August 1979, the date on which the presidency will be transferred to a democratically elected government.

The citizenry will go to the ballot boxes on 1 July, but considering the large number of political parties and voters, they will have to comply with some requirements now established by the government.

It was established that the registration of voters will begin on 2 April and will end on 31 May. The parties must register their symbols, the color of their ballots and their doctrinal and government programs, as well as their candidate, by 20 April.

The National Electoral Court must complete the national vote count between 17 and 30 July, and the credentials for president, vice president, senators and deputies will be submitted on 31 July 1979.

A government spokesman said that "the approval of this decree strengthens even more the political democratization process imposed by the military government junta which assumed power on 24 July 1978."

FACTORY WORKERS BEGIN WORK STOPPAGES THROUGHOUT COUNTRY

PY051537 La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 5 Feb 79 PY

[Text] The La Paz factory workers began a stoppage at 0000 today in accordance with the resolution of the General Confederation of Bolivian Factory Workers.

The extreme measure is one of a series of stoppages which will be staged throughout Bolivia since the union's demand for an improvement in salaries has not been met and since nothing has been done about rehiring workers dismissed because of labor and political problems.

The staggered series of factory stoppages will be as follows: Today, Monday, in La Paz; Tuesday in Oruro; Wednesday in Cochabamba; Thursday in Potosi; Friday in Santa Cruz; Monday in Chuqisaca; and Tuesday in [name indistinct].

Confederation leaders said they had submitted a written report and a number of petitions to the national industrial chamber on 26 January in which the deadline was mentioned. They also reported that the Labor Ministry has not complied with its promise to the confederation, whether or not based on the decree, regarding the situation of the workers who were dismissed because of political and labor problems.

What has caused surprise among the labor leaders is the fact that the Labor Ministry has not appropriately evaluated the situation of the so called "part-time" workers [eventuales], something which has been the concern of this sector for some years. [passage indistinct]

SENEGALESE FOREIGN MINISTER, AZEREDO MEET; COMMUNIQUE ISSUED

Lengthy Meeting Held

PY020159 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0135 GMT 2 Feb 79 PY

[Text] Brasilia, 1 Feb (LATIN)--Foreign Minister of Senegal Moustapha Niasse today held a lengthy meeting with his Brazilian colleague, Antonio Azeredo da Silveira, to analyze the fields of commercial exchange which could be exploited by the two countries.

Niasse arrived in this capital yesterday for a visit described by the Brazilian Foreign Ministry as "unofficial," and he will stay until tomorrow.

In statements to the press, the Senegalese foreign minister said that among the products to be exchanged with Brazil, his country can offer peanuts and phosphate in addition to an enormous coast "full of fish," the reason why many nations are interested in concluding fishing agreements.

Among other things, Senegal is interested in developing its soccer activities and suggested that it might request Brazil's cooperation since it considers Brazil to be a country which is "very advanced in this field."

Press Communique Issued

PY052120 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 3 Feb 79 p 8 PY

[Excerpts] Brasilia--Senegalese Foreign Minister Moustapha Niasse has praised the performance of Brazilian Foreign Minister Azeredo da Silveira, whom he termed the "artisan of Brazil's African policy," and attributed to his effort the transformation of his courtesy visit to Brasilia into a working visit which has ended with the release of a communique to the press and the signing of a complementary act.

Brazil reiterated its African policy in the communique released by Itamaraty. The two countries asked for the acceleration of efforts "seeking to quickly end the occupation of Namibia by South Africa and the end of Ian Smith's illegal regime in Rhodesia," and condemned apartheid, "whose persistence hampers the establishment of harmonious relations on the African Continent as a whole."

The press communique also states the need to increase bilateral relations in the economic, cultural and technological fields. The two countries decided to intensify the work of the Brazilian-Senegalese joint cooperation commission which will meet in the second half of June in Dakar. The two countries also decided to sign an agreement for credit through the Bank of Brazil and the Senegalese Finance Ministry to allow the quick utilization of the line of credit for $12.9 million offered by Brazil to Senegal for the purchase of Brazilian products.

The document also indicates that the following points were discussed during the meetings held by the Senegalese representative: sending a Senegalese trade mission to Brazil, sending Portuguese teachers to the University of Dakar, constructing two soccer stadiums in Senegal, sending a Brazilian soccer, coach and exchanging soccer teams, installing a Brazilian investment and trade bank in Senegal, opening maritime lines between the two countries and financing and constructing the new Senegalese Foreign Ministry building.

OFFICIAL SAYS ITAIPU WILL BE BUILT WITH OR WITHOUT CORPUS

PY021210 Paris AFP in Spanish 0341 GMT 2 Feb 79 PY

[Excerpt] Brasilia, 1 Feb (AFP)--Gen Costa Cavalcanti, president of the Brazilian-Paraguayan enterprise which is building the Itaipu hydroelectric plant, said here today that the project will be built with or without an agreement, with Corpus or without Corpus. General Cavalcanti made these remarks to Brazilian reporters after a meeting with Brazilian Foreign Minister Antonio Azeredo da Silveira.

Cavalcanti added that the project is being built in accordance with the established schedule. He emphasized that the 18 turbines to be installed in what will be the largest hydroelectric plant in the world with 12.6 million kilowatts of power have already been purchased and the first units will be operating in 1983.

He said that the decision to keep 18 turbines in operation and to install 2 more to be used when any of the others are not operating is a very good technical decision and is an expression of Brazilian and Paraguayan sovereignty. In conclusion, he said that "we will continue to carry out the dispositions of the Itaipu treaty until the project is completed."

FUTURE ENERGY MINISTER DISCUSSES NUCLEAR PROGRAM

PY031755 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 2 Feb 79 p 7 PY

[Excerpts] Brasilia--Future Mines and Energy Minister Cesar Cals indicated yesterday that only a decrease in the demand for energy, as related to government predictions, will lead to a postponement of the schedules for installing the last four of the eight plants agreed to in the Brazilian-FRG nuclear agreement.

"I never spoke about a revision of the nuclear agreement. The overall program of generating energy is based on several factors; demand is among them. Only a lower demand, as related to projected consumption, can lead to a postponement of the schedule for the rest of the plants as the first four plants are necessary for making the reactor plants viable and capable of enriching uranium. There is a program for eight plants and we are going to purchase eight," the future minister emphasized.

He also admitted that due to the delay in the work of the nuclear program, the contracting of the last four plants will also be delayed. He justified his position by asserting that "plants cannot be purchased without the necessary demand. The agreement with the FRG is inviolable and Brazil must comply with it."

PROGRESS ON ANGRA NUCLEAR PLANTS REPORTED

PY011455 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 31 Jan 79 p 6 PY

[Text] A Furnas spokesman confirmed yesterday that work on the foundations of the Angra-III nuclear plant, located only 400 meters from the Angra-II plant, will begin in March in accordance with the Admiral Alvaro Alberto Nuclear Central's work schedule and original layout.

The spokesman indicated that the work on the foundations of the Angra-II plant continues at an accelerated pace with the erection of 60 pilings a month now that the geological obstacles known as "soft formations" have been eliminated.

Once the tasks of the Angra-II foundations are finished, the equipment and manpower will automatically be sent to the site of the third plant at Itaorna Beach. The Angra-II foundation work encompasses the five buildings, including those for the reactor, turbine, fuel storehouse and the water pump room.

The Angra-I plant should begin to operate commercially in November, producing 630 megawatts. The substation for supplying the electricity to the Furnas distribution system is ready. As soon as the electromechanical tests are concluded in June, the Angra-I plant will then be put through the "cold" tests. Of the eight loads of fuel elements, three are already deposited at Itaorna and the other five must be shipped from the United States for arrival here at the end of May.

O ESTADO EXAMINES IMPLICATIONS OF DENG VISIT

PY060116 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 1 Feb 79 p 3 PY

[From the "Notes and Information" page: "Deng's Visit and Carter's Fears"]

[Text] The first, highly postive result prompted by the reestablishment of diplomatic relations between Washington and Beijing [Peking]--which will be followed by the exchange of ambassadors in March--is the extensive visit Deng Xiaoping [Teng Hsiao-ping], the number two man in the Chinese hierarchy, is making to the United States. It is interesting to note that this triangular game started by Nixon and completed by Carter, although objectively designed to counter Soviet expansionism in every key area of conflict in the world, has elicited fears and prejudice not only from certain sectors of the U.S. public, which guided by moral or commercial principles defend and support Taiwan, but also from sectors of the Carter adminstration itself--at least it appears so. It is feared that Deng's visit, primarily his public remarks, may irritate Brezhnev, who lifting his heavy eyebrows may express his discontent over Carter's behavior, which instead of promoting "detente" and reconciliation with the Soviet Union is encouraging the harshest anti-Soviet remarks in a style which resembles the now "overcome and obsolete" cold war.

Apart from Deng's anti-Soviet remarks, Carter fears that China may take some military action to retaliate for the Vietnamese invasion of Cambodia, Beijing's ally or satellite. Another, totally baseless fear of the Carter administration is that China may use force to recover Taiwan. Since the United States lost the Vietnam war ingloriously, the Carter administration wants China, its new partner or ally, to adopt the same "Pacifism" or the same submissive attitude, yielding to an unpleasant situation to avoid conflict simply to maintain its reputation as a pacific, moderate power. Objectively speaking and in the best interests of the balance of world power, China would do well to give a proper lesson to Vietnam and correct the error committed by the United States in Cambodia. The United States entered the Vietnam war with the erroneous belief that it was fighting Chinese expansionism. Now that it has been disclosed that Vietnam's protector and instigator was the Soviet Union, the United States does not want China to fight its real enemy in a region that is strategically more favorable to the Chinese than to the Americans. Furthermore, China cannot tolerate having its territory encircled by Moscow's satellites. Yet, we have to agree on this: Perhaps this is not the most appropriate time or the best opportunity to give a pretext for a Chinese-Soviet conflict. [sentence as published]

Yet, attempting to deprive this triangular game, which is objectively and even intentionally anti-Soviet, of its true character and meaning in order to give the impression that the alliance with China is not aimed against a third power is like squaring a circle.

It is difficult to understand this typically Carter-like game: The diplomatic relations established with China, according to the joint communique, are designed to engage in an antihegemonic struggle. It has been indicated, however, that no communique will be issued on the visit of Deng, the "strongman" of the Beijing regime, if he insists on including in the communique antihegemonic commitments by the two powers.

It is assumed that Carter only wants to set up a smokescreen for the benefit of the domestic sector to tranquilize the U.S. public because it will in no way have any effect abroad since Moscow assesses all alliances among its adversaries taking into account their real significance, not their words, which can be explained or justified. Furthermore, Carter cannot expect Deng not to make any anti-Soviet remark in the United States or not emphasize the threat Soviet expansionism in Africa--Ethiopia and Angola--and Asia--Yemen, Afghanistan and Iran--poses for the West, the United States and China. After all, President Carter himself should be happy over the fact that his Chinese guest has insisted on this threat, thus conveying the very fears over Soviet expansionism which he himself ought to convey--timely or not--to the U.S. public.

It is not known exactly why Carter still advocates the idea, so dear to the Soviets, of carrying on a "detente" which even before Helsinki only existed in words and speeches and which, after Helsinki, has been grossly violated by the Soviet Union in the communist wars and coups carried out in Africa and Asia on Soviet orders. Or perhaps Carter seriously believes that the signing of a second SALT agreement could put an end to the Soviet race and strategic superiority, and that relinquishing the real value of the Chinese-U.S. alliance--the Chinese capability to face the Soviet threat--will make Moscow more transigent in the disarmament talks and more moderate in the implementation of its expansionist goals?

Deng Xiaoping did not go to the United States just for pleasure or to prepare commercial agreements, but to support those distinguished sectors of the U.S. public which, like the 170 retired generals who submitted a letter to President Carter, are aware of the serious challenge posed by the incipient Soviet strategic superiority.

90-MM CANNONS TO BE SOLD TO USSR

PY051719 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 4 Feb 79 p 1 PY

[By correspondent Reali Junior]

[Text] Paris--The Soviet Union has concluded negotiations with a Brazilian company for the acquisition of 90-mm cannons to be mounted on combat vehicles. The company is a subsidiary of Engesa, Electrometal Acos Finos, located in Sumare near Campinas. The type of cannon will be similar to that mounted on the Cascavel combat vehicle, which Engesa previously sold to Middle Eastern countries such as Libya and Iraq.

This is the first time since World War II that the Soviets have bought frontline arms manufactured by Western technology. A report of this sale was published in a recent issue of the magazine ARMIES AND WEAPONS which circulates primarily in Great Britain but is published in Monte Carlo.

According to information obtained, Electrometal was subcontracted by Engesa to supply 2,000 tubes for the manufacture of 90-mm cannons and its production line was inspected by Army Minister Belfort Bethlem in mid-1978. Soviet interest arose a year ago when officers of a military mission from the USSR attended a demonstration in Iraq of the Brazilian-made Cascavel combat vehicles which had been sold to the Baghdad government.

LOPEZ MICHELSEN ATTACKS FORMER DAS CHIEF MATALLANA

PA020225 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Feb 79 PA

[Excerpt] Former President Lopez Michelsen has just delivered to Supernoticias an important political and legal document in which he states the following: Former President Lopez Michelsen announces that he will not attend the Liberal Party convention. President Lopez believes that former presidents are a disruptive factor for the new generations of the Liberal Party's national leadership. In addition, and unexpectedly, former President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen has made serious charges concerning the political and administrative conduct of Gen Joaquin Matallana, former director of the Administrative Department of Security [DAS].

In the document delivered a few moments ago to Supernoticias, former President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen maintains that General Matallana not only allowed Tony Lopez Oyuela to perform a wide range of duties in the DAS administration, but also allowed a fellow office worker to replace him in his post as director of the judicial police.

In addition, former President Lopez Michelsen broadly criticizes the leadership of the DAS when it was under the leadership of General Matallana. This document will logically have great repercussions on the investigation presently underway regarding the subversive M-19 movement.

Former President Lopez Michelsen, who has full knowledge of the subject, severely criticizes General Matallana and at the same time raises serious questions regarding the ties between lawyer Tony Lopez and General Matallana.

Matallana Denies Charges

PA030225 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Feb 79 PA

[Text] I am prepared to defend my honor on any ground and as many times as necessary, Gen Jose Joaquin Matallana Bermudez, former head of the Administrative Department of Security [DAS], said in denying former President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen's accusations against him.

Lopez Michelsen should explain more clearly what he meant when he said that the M-19 had infiltrated DAS when I was its chief, Matallana insisted. Matallana, a retired army general, also defended the personnel who worked under him while he was chief of DAS.

OFFICIAL REFUTES CHARGES OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

PA051459 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 5 Feb 79 PA

[Excerpts] Bogota--Alvaro Perez Vives, secretary general of the Colombian Presidency, has once again confronted the Colombian clergy by defending the military forces. He said that the military forces are working in accordance with the constitution and the law. He refuted the views of some bishops who charge that since the government is making the military forces so belligerent they do not rule out the possiblity that a government similar to those in most Latin American countries will emerge in Colombia.

Perez Vives emphatically stated that the country is waging an undeclared war which demands the control of the military [words indistinct].

Perez Vives was interviewed on the radio program "Grandes Reportajes," making the following statements on the church's view:

[Begin recording] [Perez Vives] In the first place, when talking about human rights we have to think of everyone's human rights, not just those of the criminals. It seems that when there is talk of human rights some people just think about the criminals. The good citizens who comprise the immense majority of the country also have human rights. The government has to protect their human rights as well as those of the criminals. The criminals have the rights of defense guaranteed by the constitution and the law. The government will firmly protect those rights.

It has been said that human rights have been violated. But I do not have reports or charges about specific cases of human rights violations or of tortures. There is talk in general about tortures and human rights violations, but no specific charges have been filed, giving names, locations and dates.

[Question] Regarding the subversive movements, you said in an important lecture that you do not believe the M-19 exists. During the past few days, following the theft of weapons from the northern garrison, the military intelligence services have dealt a number of blows which they have described as the dismantling of the M-19. How can you explain your thesis in view of the recent events?

[Answer] The recent events fully confirm my thesis. I said--and I think that my statements have been distorted--that the M-19 does not exist separately from the already known organizations. That is, the M-19 is either part of the Socialist ANAPO [Socialist National Popular Alliance], the PLA [Pedro Leon Arboleda Urban Guerrilla Group], the MAO [Workers' Self-Defense Movement], the ELN [National Liberation Army] or any of those organizations which are well known to everyone. I was trying to say that there was not a central organization, separate and different from the one already known. Who are the persons who have been arrested? They are either members of the Socialist ANAPO, or the MAO, the PLA, the ELN and so forth. This shows that the persons are members of well-known organizations.

I also said something that has been proven. Those organizations have [illegible] in a coordinated manner. Although they are separate organizations they have understandings and have operated in a coordinated manner. I also said with foreign advice. Those organizations use various initials, including the [illegible]

DEFENSE MINISTRY REPORTS ON GUERRILLA ATTACK, M-19 ARMS

PA032016 Bogota Radio Santa Fe in Spanish 1730 GMT 3 Feb 79 PA

[Official bulletin by National Defense Ministry released through San Carlos Palace Press and Information Secretariat, read by secretariat official Carmen Santiago; no date given--presumably recorded]

[Text] The Defense Ministry herewith reports that in the course of operations against the subversive movement known as the M-19, in two [word indistinct] located in Bogota on 2 and 3 February, it recovered the following items: 94 long-range weapons, 806 short-range weapons, 17,081 rounds of ammunition of various calibers, 580 magazines for M-1 carbines, 15 magazines for (San Cristobal) carbines, 83 magazines for rifles, 300 primers, 7 telescopes with shooting tripods [as heard], 5 sets of handcuffs, 12 army uniforms, 12 M-19 hoods and various subversive propaganda.

On 2 February at 2000 the township of Acevedo in Huila Department was attacked. Through the reaction of the police forces stationed in that township, the attack was blunted. Two confirmed deaths occurred among the assailants. Four others killed were apparently evacuated by the assailants. The sociopaths killed the parish priest's assistant. The police forces reported only three slightly injured officers. Troops of the Ninth Brigade are pursuing them in order to destroy the group.

Thanking the good citizens for their help, the Defense Ministry urges them to continue supplying reports so that the peace and calm of all Colombians can be maintained.

ARMED FORCES REPORT ACTIONS AGAINST SUBVERSIVES

PA041947 Paris AFP in Spanish 1743 GMT 4 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Bogota, 4 Feb (AFP)--The Colombian Armed Forces said today that subversion in the country has almost been eradicated. They added that 5,624 weapons which had been in the hands of guerrilla groups have been recovered. The Information Office of the Colombian Presidency today released a bulletin to AFP described as a "special report" entitled "Subversion Is Eradicated" which gives details of the army's success.

It was reported that in a spectacular operation during the past 30 days the armed forces were able to dismember one of the "most dangerous and powerful subversive groups that ever existed in the country." The report was referring to the self-styled M-19 urban guerrilla group. The bulletin added that several of the "masterminds" of the movement have been identified and captured.

Early this year the M-19 stole 4,303 rifles and revolvers and a large amount of ammunition from an army garrison north of Bogota by means of a tunnel almost 80 meters long. The government bulletin indicated that 95 percent of those weapons have been recovered through actions of the armed forces all over the country. The official report added that "other weapons that had illegally entered Colombia for subversive purposes were also confiscated."

"In a determined war against those who sought to create chaos and undermine the country's institutional foundations, investigators have confiscated 5,624 weapons ranging from revolvers to highly sophisticated military weapons in a number of raids throughout the country," the report added. The report indicated that the armed forces have discovered hideouts where kidnaped citizens were held captive awaiting large ransoms. In its struggle against subversion the government revealed that well-built hideouts for storing large amounts of weapons and ammunition were found in Bogota, Cali and Bucaramanga. It also said that the armed forces have "dealt severe blows to common criminals, capturing several persons considered highly dangerous."

The bulletin reported that the armed forces recovered 5,624 firearms, 58,146 rounds of ammunition, 20 grenades, 1,233 magazines for various weapons, 15 vehicles used in subversion and 1,000 army and police uniforms. It indicated that 25 horses in Bogota are under stict surveillance by security agencies after being abandoned by persons considered members of subversive groups.

FARC ATTACK ON ACEVEDO REPORTED BY POLICE

PA032136 Bogota Radio Sante Fe in Spanish 1730 GMT 3 Feb 79 PA

[Pedro (Zuquelano Rivero) report]

[Text] Neiva--The Huila-Caqueta Police Department Command under Col Camelo Jimenez has officially confirmed last night's attack by a guerrilla commando group of the self-styled Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC] on the town of Acevedo, located south of this capital on the foothills of the eastern cordillera. The Huila-Caqueta Police Command, headquartered in Neiva, released the following bulletin through the public relations chief's office under 2d Lt Jorge Orlando Garzon Jimenez:

Last night at 2000 a group of 80 to 100 guerrillas, apparently belonging to the FARC, tried to take over the town of Acevedo but was repelled by the police. The following casualties occurred: Two noncommissioned officers and one agent were wounded. The noncommissioned officers are Sgt Hector Puentes Perdomo and Cpl Hector Pedroza Bustamante. Agent Hernando Pulido Suarez is under intensive medical care right now at the general hospital in Neiva. He was injured by grenade shards. The two noncommissioned officers were taken from Acevedo to Pisalito, 1 and 1/2 hours away. It was also determined that civilians Luis Quintero and (Seriano Yustre) were wounded in the shooting that ensued between units of the police stationed in Acevedo and the guerrilla commando group. They are also receiving medical care in the town (?of Acevedo) since, according to the doctors, their wounds are slight. It was determined through the police that during this guerrilla incursion the agrarian bank in the town of Acevedo lost 514,182 pesos in cash which were taken out of the safe after the guerrillas got hold of the two keys belonging to the director and secretary of the bank. They were told to either open the bank's safe or else be killed.

The armed insurgents then attacked the TELECOM [Colombian Telecommunications Enterprise] office, cut telephone communications to various parts of the department and took the daily receipts of the office, estimated at 5,000 pesos in cash by the office chief. Deacon Luis Valencia Rojas' death was disclosed later. As reported by the Archdiocese of Garzon, under those jurisdiction the municipality of Acevedo is located, he took office as deacon of the area last December.

REPORT ISSUED ON RESULTS OF ANTINARCOTICS STRUGGLE

PA041819 Paris AFP in Spanish 1653 GMT 5 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Bogota, 4 Feb (AFP)--The Colombian Government today announced its victory over drug traffic, revealing that $1,220,850,000 worth of cocaine and marihuana were confiscated over the past 6 months.

In a report given to AFP today, the government indicated that the confiscations were achieved through joint operations of the army, police and secret security agencies throughout the country. The government report explained that 15,194 billion pesos ($379.85 million) worth of marihuana and 33.64 billion pesos ($841 million) worth of cocaine were confiscated. From August 1978 to January 1979 antinarcotics brigades seized 34 U.S.-registered planes, 60 boats and 71 automobiles, arresting 543 Colombians and foreigners involved in cocaine and marihuana trafficking.

The "first bulletin of the war" against narcotics stressed the cooperation of residents of regions such as the Atlantic coast in northern Colombia where 72,000 hectares of marihuana were discovered. It indicated that peaceful and honest residents have notified the authorities about the existence of the marihuana cultivation. Meanwhile, the air force, navy and army have courageously confronted traffickers from the sea, land and air.

The report also noted that more than 50 clandestine landing fields have been discovered in the northern Department of Guajira, the main marihuana production center, where the drug is taken to the United States. The authorities have also discovered 13 cocaine processing laboratories in the cities of Bogota, Cali, Popayan, Medellin and Pasto near the Ecuadorean border. The report released to AFP indicated that of the 543 perons arrested, 111 are from the United States, and 11 from Mexico, Puerto Rico, Peru and Bolivia. "In sum, it is a difficult battle in which Colombia has struggled with all its resources. Much has been achieved, but there is still more to be done," the official bulletin added.

TEXACO ACCUSED OF OIL EXPORT IRREGULARITIES

Comptroller General Reports

PA022023 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1730 GMT 2 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Last Monday the Office of the Comptroller General of the nation sent a report to the Supreme Council of Government on irregularities in the oil business, including bills owed by Texaco for excessive exploitation of crude oil to the detriment of state interests. The comptroller's office also asked for administrative sanctions, such as fines and dismissals, without forgetting the civil and penal responsibilities that they might involve. Gen Eduardo Semblantes Polanco, minister of natural resources and energy, said that Texaco will have to pay the bills.

Official Blames Texaco

PA031546 Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 1255 GMT 3 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Texaco oil company of the United States will have to answer charges that it illegally exported nearly 4.8 million barrels of oil in 1977. The oil belonged to the Ecuadorean State Petroleum Company (CEPE), which in 1977 faced some difficulty selling it abroad, as Deputy Natural Resources Secretary (Meng Manchen) had said.

The official placed all responsibility for the charges on Texaco, trying to dismiss a corresponding part of the blame belonging to Minister Eduardo Semblantes and former Natural Resources Director Julio Granja as the individuals who authorized the excess exports. According to what the deputy secretary said, National Comptroller Dr (Rui Giralgo) has not asked for Minister Semblantes' dismissal, but rather that the government sanction him as set forth by law.

The law provides gradual sanctions ranging from a fine of 50 sucres to dismissal. However, since the idea of dismissal has been discarded, perhaps the minister will just be charged a token fine.

Let us listen to (Manchen's) argument: [begin recording] The notations [glosas] are indications of duties owed because of the difference in the amount of oil shipped by CEPE and Texaco in 1977, when no shipment regulation was applied. However, I must warn that this difference, of which the company has been informed, must be paid respecting the rights of the parties and, of course, the state's supreme interests. Texaco can reply to the notations at the Office of the Comptroller General of the nation within 60 days. However, if the company does not do so, pertinent officials will proceed according to state law. This is all that the press should be told to honor the truth. [end recording]

COMPTROLLER GENERAL RESIGNS; GOVERNMENT DENIES COUP RUMOR

PA060116 Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 2300 GMT 5 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Col Enrique Dobronsky, secretary general of public administration, in a news conference held a few minutes ago at the Presidential Palace, denied rumors of a coup d'etat.

Colonel Dobronsky said that the Supreme Council of Government intends to see that the plan to restore democracy in Ecuador--presumably by 10 August 1979, when the president and congressmen chosen in the 29 April elections assume their posts--is properly carried out. Colonel Dobronsky said that the government knows there are sectors spreading false rumors to hurt the military government's prestige.

[Begin recording] [Dobronsky] Regarding rumors of an alleged coup d'etat and changes in the government's highest ranks, it is my pleasure to tell you that nothing like that has occurred. As you are all aware, the Supreme Council of Government is working normally, doing routine work and trying to implement the best policies for the country.

The Supreme Council of Government definitely knows how important it is to the nation's political life to see that the plan to restore democracy is carried out, and it is doing everything possible to reach a successful conclusion. As official spokesman for the government, I categorically deny all rumors and request the press to pay no attention to the work of sectors interested in damaging the prestige of the government, which only wishes to deliver power to whoever wins the April elections.

[Question] Colonel, could you give the names of sectors spreading such rumors?

[Answer] No. I cannot, but the government has them fully identified. Their names cannot be made public for reasons that you understand very well.

[Question] For what purpose are they doing this?

[Answer] They are trying to obstruct the government's plan to restore democracy in the country.

[Question] Is it true that other government officials have resigned?

[Answer] No, that is not true.

[Question] Colonel, it has been said that the armed forces will certainly give up power, but only to a person they approve.

[Answer] That is a lie. I categorically deny that.

[Question] We have just learned that Luis Hidalgo, the nation's comptroller general, has resigned, and that Gen Jaime Semblantes, natural resources and energy minister, has asked the government not to accept his resignation until he can prove his charges. What about this?

[Answer] I can only say that the resignation was received at 1300 and that the Supreme Council of Government is studying it.

[Question] Are the sectors spreading such rumors military or civilian?

[Answer] I cannot answer that because I do not know who they are.

[Question] Colonel, how long is the government going to support Gen Bolivar Jarrin?

[Answer] The government policy is to not interfere with the judicial branch. This case is in the hands of the proper courts, and the government is only guaranteeing that the trial is fair and honest. The people can rest assured that the trial will be carried out legally, according to all government regulations. [end recording]

As you have just heard, the military government categorically denied rumors of a coup d'etat or changes of government officials in the highest ranks.

These rumors were first heard early this afternoon after Comptroller General Hidalgo submitted his resignation. Last week he accused Texaco of irregularities in oil exports. In his report he also involved Natural Resources Minister General Semblantes.

STUDENTS PROTEST HIGHER STAPLE PRICES, COST OF LIVING RISE

PA010401 Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 2300 GMT 31 Jan 79 PA

[Text] The growing unrest in the capital is alarming. This morning students from several schools took to the streets to protest price increases on staples, especially beef and milk. Because of this, traffic in several downtown streets was detoured to other streets.

The strike in several schools is not only to protest the price increases but also the uncontrolled cost of living increase. Two schools in the north have called a strike, the Andres Bello and the [name indistinct]. In the central part of the country the Montalvo, Mejia and Cervantes schools in Guayaquil have joined the student strike. In the southern part of the country the Benite Juarez, the [names indistinct] schools are also on strike. Some of the students have demonstrated with placards and thrown stones.

Police posted in strategic points have dispersed the demonstrations [words indistinct].

Meanwhile, a delegation representing (?high schools) arrived in Quito this morning to learn of the decision reached by the assembly held yesterday. It was decided that the strike will begin at 0700 today and end tonight with a strike by the night schools.

The high school student delegates said they have mobilized in protest over the increase in the price of milk and because of [words indistinct]. The high school students are in permanent assembly, demanding a freeze of staple prices and a 50-percent salary and wage increase.

Milk Increase Reportedly Revoked

PA020211 Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 2300 GMT 1 Feb 79 PA

[Excerpt] Sources close to the Ministries of Agriculture and Industries informed Radio Quito that the decree issued early this week increasing the cost of milk has been revoked.

ECONOMIC SECTORS CRITICIZE FOREI DEBT POLICY

PA012320 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1730 GMT 1 Feb 79 PA

[Text] The major economic sectors in the country have recently criticized what they call an imprudent debt policy which is virtually mortgaging the country. These same sectors have said that Ecuador will have to earmark a large amount of funds to pay the foreign debt, which totals more than 45 billion sucres.

Economic analysts are criticizing the government for not limiting itself to real credit possibilities. Instead, it has resorted to an imprudent debt policy to pay for its growing spending, a large part of which is bureaucratic spending that does not produce an adequate profit to pay for the loans.

The civilian government will face serious difficulties when it has to pay debts incurred during the past 7 years of military rule.

NEW CONSTITUTION TO PUT CIVILIANS OVER MILITARY

PA041215 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0148 GMT 4 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Lima, 3 Feb (EFE)--The armed forces and police will be apolitical and subordinate to the civilian government that will be chosen in the next Peruvian general elections. This thesis has been approved by the Constituent Assembly, which is drafting the new Peruvian constitution, it was learned here today.

The president of the republic will be the commander in chief of the armed forces and police corps and will manage the national defense system. According to the new Peruvian constitution, the armed forces' basic purpose will be to guarantee Peru's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. Funds to equip the armed forces and police will be appropriated by law. Control and allocation of the funds will be the responsibility of the executive branch, with the advice of the National Defense Council.

The mission of the police forces will be to maintain public order, guarantee the security and property of the citizens, and defend human rights. The new constitution also states that military promotions will be approved by the nation's Senate.

NEW PRIME MINISTER SETS FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIVES

PA012235 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2108 GMT 31 Jan 79 PA

[Text] Lima, 31 Jan (EFE)--The new Peruvian prime minister announced that his fundamental objectives are the transfer of power to civilians and the search for a sound economy for the country.

Gen Pedro Richter Prada, who was sworn in this morning by President Francisco Morales Bermudez, also assumed the posts of war minister and commanding general of the Peruvian Army. He asked the army for its loyal support for the government's policies.

On military measures, he announced that reserves will receive intensive training to "bring the active forces up to full strength in the shortest possible time." The new war minister pointed out that the armed forces will be strengthened as much as possible within the nation's economic limitations. Since 1978, Peru has faced a difficult financial crisis, alleviated only through repeated refinancing of its huge external debt, which is nearly $11 billion, and with measures officially described as ones of "severe austerity."

General Richter assumes the Peruvian premiership at a time when the country faces serious problems with its neighbors Ecuador and Chile. Peru and Chile reduced their diplomatic relations 20 days ago to the level of "commercial attaches."

The political experience of the new member of the governing junta, acquired through several years as interior minister, qualified him, according to observers, to deal with the nation's foreign and domestic policies.

Domestically, Peru is going through a tense phase, resulting basically from its economic difficulties, which in 1978 were marked by an officially acknowledged 75 percent increase in inflation.

Richter was formerly president of the armed forces Joint Command and army chief of staff.

ECONOMY MINISTER VIEWS COUNTRY'S TRADE SITUATION

PA042259 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 27 Jan 79 p 1 PA

[Text] Peruvian Economy and Finances Minister Javier Silva Ruete has said that Peru will have a trade surplus for the second consecutive year, an estimated $577 million in 1979. He said that this will be made possible with projected exports of $2.375 billion, compared to imports of $1.898 billion. Silva Ruete said that as a result of the increase in exports over the last 4 years, there has been a growing trade surplus. The 1978 surplus was approximately $500 million, and it is estimated that the 1979 surplus will surpass that figure.

The economy and finances minister spoke at a luncheon offered by the diplomatic association of commercial officials of the embassies accredited in Peru.

He explained that the increase in exports is based on higher prices for several Peruvian raw materials on the international market. Therefore, he said, the international forecasting centers predict that the trend is positive after a long negative period, which was a serious factor in the country's economic and financial crisis.

He announced that as part of the financial program, starting the first week of February the financing period for imports will be decreased another 30 days. The goal is to reduce this to zero by the end of the year, if possible. He said that these measures will put us 1 year ahead in fulfilling this objective with respect to the financial program, which served as a basis for negotiation with the IMF.

He said that in 1979 there will be no difficulties in obtaining foreign currency for the imports required for the national production sector. "Our goal is for foreign currency to be directed toward the importation of supplies, machinery and other necessary elements," he said.

Silva Ruete pointed out that imports will increase not only as a result of higher prices but because there are new export products and some very important ones, as in the case of oil. An oil importing country in 1979, we are going to become an oil exporter. The latest discoveries have been very generous and reinforce the possibility that oil exports, which we did not have before, will amount to approximately $500 million.

Nontraditional exports are another important factor, according to the minister. The Exporters Association [ADEX] has estimated that these will amount to $600 million this year.

The minister also announced that new storage regulations will be issued very soon to provide a more adequate source of supply for the country's producers and to reduce the financing costs for these companies.

In referring to the financial prospects, Silva Ruete emphasized that the efforts to put the international finances in order on the basis of a reorganization of the foreign debt have resulted in the IMF again opening a standby credit. He added that Peru's relations with the international commercial banks, both government and private, are normal again.

MINISTER ANNOUNCES BORDER TALKS, MORE CUBAN EXILES

PA060004 Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 2050 GMT 5 Feb 79 PA

[Fredy Batista report]

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Dr Simon Alberto Consalvi has announced that he will discuss border integration with the public works minister of Colombia, who is in this country on an official visit.

The foreign minister also said that in the course of a week several Cuban citizens will arrive here following negotiations underway with Dr Fidel Castro's government.

120 RELEASED CUBAN PRISONERS TO ARRIVE SHORTLY

PA031948 Paris AFP in Spanish 1854 GMT 3 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Caracas, 3 Feb (AFP)--Foreign Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi said here today that a new group of 120 anti-Castro Cubans will arrive in Venezuela within a month.

The Cubans will make the trip once appropriate steps between the Venezuelan and Cuban governments have been taken.

The foreign minister made the statement shortly after Cuban Ambassador Norberto Hernandez announced that Fidel Castro's government will release some 500 persons imprisoned for counterrevolutionary actions. Venezuela granted visas to several dozen Cubans at the end of last year.

FORMER GUERRILLA CAPTURED IN CONNECTION WITH BANK ROBBERIES

PA031636 Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 3 Feb 79 PA

[Text] The Judicial Technical Police [PTJ] have announced the capture of dangerous former guerrilla Nelson del Valle (Bonten) Martinez, who is charged with having participated in several bank robberies in Caracas and in the interior of the country. The former guerrilla was captured in the town of [name indistinct] Sucre State. The PTJ spokesman said that he was captured by the Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services [DISIP] during a combing operation in eastern Venezuela. The authorities confiscated a hand grenade and a 9-mm pistol which he stole in 1975 when he escaped from the DISIP after his arrest.

PTJ commissioner (Delfin Sierra Baron), chief of the Antirobbery Division, said that (Bonten) Martinez is accused of participating in robberies of the Banco Italo-Venezolano branch in Santa Lucia and the Banco Mercantil y Agricola branch in Campo Claro some years ago.

SOVIET AMBASSADOR ASKED ABOUT AMBASSADOR'S LUGGAGE

PA051546 Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 5 Feb 79 PA

[Text] The Soviet ambassador in Caracas has been summoned to the Foreign Ministry by the protocol director in order to report on the status of Ambassador Regulo Burelli Rivas' luggage, a Yellow House spokesman has reported. He explained that the Burelli family's luggage has been held by Soviet officials for 8 months. Therefore, the Foreign Ministry had decided to summon the Soviet ambassador in Caracas to ask him to report on this matter and to advise him that the Venezuelan Government is interested in reaching a prompt solution on the matter.

BUSINESSMEN'S REQUEST TO INCREASE PRICES OF STAPLES EXAMINED

PA020224 Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 2 Feb 79 PA

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The statement made by production sectors stressing that an increase in the prices of staples is imminent is worrisome. They backed up their statement with the argument about the high cost of their so-called investments, which refers solely to raw materials.

The pressures of managers which naturally [words indistinct] the communications media so that the government will change the existing regulations and yield to their demands for authorizing an increase in the prices of several staples encourages [word indistinct] and causes some anxiety because if the spiraling inflation which is choking us continues, those who earn meager salaries, especially the working class which supports itself on the minimum salary that hardly buys a few groceries each week and which lives alienated in those unhealthy and humiliating houses which extend from one extreme to the other of our metropolitan area, will be the victims of a chilling scarcity and will be engulfed in the most desperate and dramatic tragedy.

The Confederation of Workers of Venezuela, an organization whose voice should be heard and weighed, has just issued a communique clearly describing this serious and threatening problem. The powerful Venezuelan central, a priceless pillar of our democracy which the country's free forces claim to defend, admits that the companies make reasonable profits and notes that the fair prices requested by businessmen of the city and the interior require, first of all, a report on the true costs so that one can reach valid conclusions that will allow a fair balance between prices and salaries.

As the communique clearly states, the main incentive in Venezuela's capitalist economy, where even the state is an important businessman, is profit. But we feel this profit must be limited. Otherwise, we will reach a dead end and the constant increase in salaries and prices will lead us to undesireable extremes.

We must ponder these things. If one adds at least a small dosage of social sensibility or human justice, which is almost the same, to the greed for economic benefits, one could establish a desirable balance so that all may be fed, clothed, educated, healed and finally live without the outlook of gloom. Otherwise, the rich will become richer and the poor will become poorer.

PRESIDENT-ELECT MEETS WITH LAES OFFICIALS

PA031633 Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 3 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Venezuelan President-elect Dr Luis Herrera Campins has expressed special interest in programs aimed at intensifying economic activity among Latin American countries. The president-elect also expressed interest in proposals made by representatives of the Latin American Economic System [LAES]. This was reported by LAES Permanent Secretary Jaime Moncayo, who along with other LAES officials met with Herrera Campins in his office in Altamira.

Dr Herrera Campins also voiced support for Latin American unity, indicating that he will promote programs planned by the LAES. These include the multinational fertilizer enterprise, promotion of the use of food supplements [complementos alimenticios], establishment of craft enterprises and a fishing cooperative. Dr Moncayo also said that the president-elect expressed interest in housing programs.

DEVELOPMENT MINISTER TRAVELS TO BOLIVIA

PA031629 Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 3 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Venezuelan Development Minister Luis Alvarez Dominguez will travel to La Paz, Bolivia, today. He will deliver documents to transnational companies interested in establishing automotive industries in Bolivia and Venezuela. He will turn over the documents jointly with Bolivian Industry and Commerce Minister Capt Oscar Pammo.

The automotive industry to be established in Bolivia and Venezuela is part of the allotments included in Program 120 of the Andean Pact. The Renault, Fiat and Ford companies will receive a basic document in the Bolivian city of Cochabamba on Sunday.

NEW TRANSPORT MINISTER TO BE APPOINTED

PA021721 Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 2 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Transport and Communications Minister Jose Enrique Vivas Casanova will present his resignation to President Perez today. He has been appointed secretary general of the Democratic Action Party in Carabobo. The general director of that ministry, Jose Ignacio Alvarez, will be appointed minister. He will be in the post until the end of the present constitutional period.

MINES MINISTER SEES GOOD OIL INDUSTRY PROSPECTS

PA051506 Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 5 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Venezuela's oil industry prospects for 1979 are good, Mines Minister Dr Valentin Hernandez has said. He added that reports of alleged oil industry problems are groundless.

Minister Hernandez Acosta noted that the country is selling oil at the highest price ever recorded in its history. He said that the Venezuelan Petroleum Company has reserves totaling over 17 billion bolivares.

POLICE OPERATION TO PROTECT BANKS BEGINS

PA051542 Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 5 Feb 79 PA

[Text] A police protection operation begins at the bank offices today, Justice Minister Juan Martin Echeverria reported. The PJT [Judicial Technical Police], the National Guard and other security organizations will participate in the operation.

Instructions have also been issued to the state governors so that a similar operation can begin through the united commands (?today). The justice minister added that so far bank robberies are not responsible for the rise in the crime rate, but they are a factor in the situation.

Dr Juan Martin Echeverria said that (?supplementary) measures have been announced in conjunction with the Finance Ministry on another problem, which is smuggling. The measures [words indistinct] along with the National Guard, the justice minister added.

CUBAN ECONOMIC COOPERATION COMMITTEE ARRIVES FOR TALKS

PA040252 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Feb 79 PA

[Text] A Cuban State Committee for Economic Cooperation delegation headed by the committee's vice president, Manuel Torres, has arrived in Panama for talks with high-level Panamanian agriculture officials. Talks will be held to establish the terms for an economic, scientific and technical cooperation agreement between Cuba and Panama.

Officials Meet With Cuban Delegation

PA060223 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 5 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Agricultural Development Vice Minister Ariel Barnett and the members of the Cuban mission currently visiting our country met today to discuss technial cooperation in agriculture between Cuba and Panama. Cuba will reportedly provide Panama with advice on processing sugarcane derivatives and will supply parts and spare parts for factories. Prospects for the 1980 sugarcane harvest, current agricultural research plans and information control, as well as other aspects of mutual interest were also discussed at the meeting.

The mission's seven experts, who are officials of the Sugar Industry Ministry and of the Cuban institute for research in sugarcane derivatives, were accompanied by Cuban Ambassador Miguel Brugueras. Also present were Francisco Rodriguez, general director of La Victoria Sugar Corporation, and Franklin Clavel, national director of livestock production at the Agricultural Development Ministry.

ROYO ADDRESSES MEETING OF 1972 CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY MEMBERS

PA041702 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 3 Feb 79 pp 1, 8-A PA

[Excerpt] An important political step that will contribute to strenghtening joint work on behalf of Panamanian communities by current and past members of the assembly of corregimiento representatives was taken yesterday at a meeting at the Juan Demostenes Arosemena teachers school. The meeting concluded with the formal installation of the association of members of the 1972 constitutent assembly. This important event was attended by President Aristides Royo.

Speaking to the members of the constituent assembly, the president asked for the consolidation of relations between the new and old members of people's power as a way to strengbhen the process and help improve the country's communities.

In his 20-minute speech President Royo noted the work that the 1972 corregimiento representatives had to undertake to draft a constitution that signifies a step forward in strengthening Panama's democratic institutions.

Royo indicated that the only way to have authentic and truly democratic popular representation is to bear in mind the corregimientos. He said this is a different system, and therefore, the corregimiento representatives can consider themselves "the creators of the best democracy our country has ever had." The groundwork for the democracy we have have today has fortunately been laid in Panama. You and we who have worked together during many years and who will continue to do so can be sure that we will never issue such a document as the ominous 1941 constiution, which prohibted the immigration of certain races, which said that neither blacks nor Chinese could enter this country. With that constitution we would not have had Raul Chang or Walter Lawson as representatives of people's power in this country, the president said.

Referring to the work of the 1972 representatives, he said that they had helped to create the process, adding that because of this we feel that we are addressing people who share the concerns of the process, who are distinguished members of our process and who will continue enriching, improving, strengthening and expanding it in the future.

The president said he hopes that any resentment which the new representatives might feel against the work and participation of the predecessors in their communities should be laid aside. We want to ask you, Royo said, to continue with the tasks that you have been given and stop once and for all the resentment and antagonism which emerged during the campaign. We are going to do everything within our power so that there is no division in the family which supports the concerns of our government. It is the family which has to fight united. It is the family which has to jointly protect the achievements our process has made over the past 10 years. It is the family which our enemies want to divide, he said, but we are not going to give them that satisfaction.

Concluding his statement, President Royo said that he had wanted to participate in this event to speak to the representatives about solidarity, comradeship and the support that this process continues to require from them. We are sure that you will not deny us as you have not denied us in the past. We hope that the association of members of the constituent assembly will continue to work with us. In exchange we offer full and sincere reciprocity, the president said.

NEW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESIDENT VIEWS ECONOMIC SITUATION

PA022006 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 2 Feb 79 pp 1, 34 PA

[Speech by Cesar A. Tribaldos, Jr, president of the Panamanian Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, during ceremony held at the Holiday Inn in Panama City on 1 February 1979 to install him in the post]

[Excerpts] The job of every government is to support private enterprise with laws which allow the full exercise of its rights, avoiding with such laws the conflicts or violence which has historically threatened its existence.

Our country requires such an initiative to alleviate and satisfy the needs of the neglected population or the population living in poverty on lands that offer no opportunities and of those who lack the working tools necessary for attaining their fondest hopes.

The country's economy needs a stimulant for its reactivation. All of those present here need an incentive to motivate the generative capacity of our material and intellectual resources.

This requires that we review the prospects of the immediate future. Let us look at the most important ones.

We aspire to an effective implementation of the canal treaties in such a way that it will permit the investment of private capital in activities that are allied with and complement maritime traffic. It would be senseless to limite the exploitation of our largest natural resources to the orderly and efficient transit of ships, excluding the civilian activities which characterize democratic existence.

The canal strip which returns to our full jurisdiction is the heritage of all Panamanians and the state should only become the temporary repository of the opportunities which belong to the community. The state should regulate the use of the lands indispensable to the preservation and maintenance of the waterway.

However, it would not be right for the possibilities of private capital investment and the generation of sources of employment to be managed by state enterprises or as trophies of a specific political movement.

The state should determine the properties and services required by the terminal ports to eradicate the atmosphere of restricted areas and to provide the population working in the canal with an atmosphere proper of Panamanian daily life, thus producing the logical result of explotating this resource and developing the commercial and industrial potentials which can be activated by capital's initiative.

The economic prospects entailed by the gradual acquisition of canal operation should be emphasized by promoting the establishment of duty-free industrial zones whose levels of profit and facilities for export justify new and sizeable capital investments, the introduction of advanced technologies, the training of local labor and the complete use of the area as a center of international marketing.

This endeavor will produce a healthy and permanent effect upon our balance of payments.

In contemplating the complexities of the work which will have to be done by the state starting on 1 October this year together with the grave responsibilities entailed in public administration and the political commitments which our authorities acquire at every turn, we are worried about the silence which is maintained regarding the largest capital investment in our history.

The Cerro Colorado mine: No details of its financing are known, nor are the risks which the nation assumes, the costs and interests rates of the investment, the feasibility studies behind it, the labor conditions which will prevail in the exploitation of this resource, the ecological effects which the region will suffer, the scope of the operation which we all will have to answer for or the details of the marketing study which made this new national adventure attractive when we are barely recovering from the Bunau-Varilla legacy.

We have given our attention to the present administration's programs from the beginning. We have applauded the steps taken to obtain our country's economic recovery.

It was certainly correct to refrain from raising the taxes which weigh upon the people. We admire the maturity of permitting the participation of the private sector in the planning of the national development.

We are in a position to evaluate the effectiveness of a redoubling of the policy of austerity in state outlays.

But the political activities which have been carried out in the past few weeks with the active participation of top-level government officials threaten to relegate such praiseworthy undertakings to a secondary place.

We will give special attention to the fate of the housing law reforms as irrefutable evidence of the esteem which the present administration gives to one of the most sincere, selfless and patriotic instances of participation with which the private sector has contributed to the nation's development.

We will continue promoting a sincere and advantageous rapprochement between the businessman and the worker in search of an honest definition of the needs and demands of both parties within the framework of strict respect for the rights and obligations of the law.

The National Labor Commission must dedicate all its efforts toward establishing an enduring balance in labor relations.

Law 95 should not be modified.

We are of the opinion that continuous and effective communication between us will result in a full understanding of the causes of the evils which delay the commercial, industrial and agricultural development of our most prolific regions and the clear definition of joint goals required to attain the progress of its inhabitants.

We offer, without ties or commitments, our capacity and knowledge when needed for the greatness, development and welfare of the fatherland. May God help us in our endeavour. Thank you.

BUSINESSMEN'S CONFIDENCE IN ROYO REPORTEDLY UNDERMINED

PA022352 Panama City Radio Mia Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 2 Feb 79 PA

[Commentary by Julio Ortega and Ramon Pereira in "Resumen Informativo" program]

[Excerpts] [Ortega] A Chamber of Commerce delegation headed by Jose Diaz Seixas and Cesar Tribaldos personally invited President Royo to the ceremony in which the new Board of Directors was going to be sworn in. This was approximately 2 weeks ago and President Royo told his secretary to cancel all his appointments for that day because he was specially interested in attending the ceremony.

[Pereira] Maybe he was advised not to go after reading the speech Mr Seixas Diaz was going to deliver that same night.

[Ortega] But that is not the way to restore the confidence of private enterprise. As you know, Torrijos never showed any interest in talking or having anything to do with private enterprise. As a result of his attitude and many other unfriendly actions, the attitude of private enterprise toward the government was one of distrust. Before he became president of the republic, President Royo met with members of the Chamber of Commerce in the interior of the republic and he assured them of his desire to cooperate with them in developing the country's economy. When he became president of the republic, he proceeded to appoint work committees such as the National Economic Council and began to give private enterprise some participation which restored some of the confidence that had been lost until 11 October. In this climate of growing trust, President Royo was invited by private enterprise to one of its most important ceremonies, but the president of the republic failed to show up.

What can be expected of private enterprise if the president of the republic shows no desire to meet with men who are working and investing and risking their money to keep the nation's economy active?

PRD ACCUSED OF RESORTING TO PREVIOUS PARTY TACTICS

PA022252 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 1 Feb 79 p 4-A PA

[Article by Mario Augusto Rodriguez: "Withdrawal or Recession?..."]

[Text] 1. Confirmation

For some time now I have been plagued by a long list of concerns regarding the fate of my country. On many occasions I have asked myself if General Torrijos' withdrawal to the barracks--which I regard as perfectly justified in view of the need for civilian institutionalization of the Panamanian revolutionary process--would be used positively to benefit the national community. I have been particularly troubled by the return to the traditional system of political parties. [paragraph continues]

I have always felt that the origin of the serious evils that the Panamanian nation has experienced lies precisely with the political party system, which I regard as a mockery of democracy. And now that I have had the opportunity to observe directly how that restoration of the party system is developing through the conduct of the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), which claims to originate in the revolutionary process generated and directed by General Torrijos, I must confess that my concerns and troubles have been painfully confirmed. I believe we are going back to much of what was wrong, negative and destructive, and what led to the National Guard's intervention on 11 October 1968.

2. Recession

The PRD, which is currently being organized, resorted in Santiago to the same vices and demagogic tactics to which political parties have traditionally resorted in the electoral processes that I thought had been definitely eradicated. In order to fill La Placita with people to receive President Royo, all available official vehicles were used, with drivers and fuel paid by the state. It was obvious that all public employees, including the seasonal and permanent workers of La Victoria sugarmill, the Agricultural Development Ministry and other such institutions, had been forced to attend this allegedly spontaneous demonstration. At the Compa Mida restaurant, I was told that its employees had prepared 10,000 sandwiches to distribute among those attending the demonstration and that for this reason service to the public in this magnificent restaurant had had to be suspended for several hours.

3. The Banquet

Something similar happened with the attendance at the banquet which was allegedly organized to collect funds to finance the PRD's activities. Although it has been said that the "admission fee" was voluntary and had been set at 20 balboas per person, I confirmed that public employees had been pressured to contribute depending on their salary: from 5 to 10 balboas for those with low and medium incomes to 20 balboas for those with higher incomes. This explains the fact that many people who do not include meat in their family meals appeared as "voluntary contributors" at this banquet. In the end, many of those who had paid did not attend, while many of those who attended had not paid. In any event, good money was collected and an appreciable margin of funds was obtained because many of the expenses were assumed, either directly or indirectly, by the state: Both the vehicles and the fuel for them were provided by the various government agencies. What remains to be explained is whether this is why the revolution was carried out or why General Torrijos withdrew.

LIBERAL PARTY LEADER VIEWS OPPOSITION UNITY, GOALS

PA031617 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 2 Feb 79 PA

[Mario Velasquez interview with Liberal Party President David Samudio; date and place not given--presumably recorded]

[Excerpt] [Question] Mr Samudio, within the framework of the reorganization and (?unification) of the Liberal Party, how will the trend which I understand exists among some members of the party to join the other major opposition force--the Panamenist Party--be tackled?

[Answer] Well, the opinion of most Liberal Party members whom I have been able to question and whom I meet in my office daily is that in the long run we will have to reach complete unity among the opposition to face the current administration with a single goal: changing the Panamanian state structure, which we deem necessary to emerge from the serious situation the country is experiencing. We cannot unite to change one person for another person.

We cannot unite for personal interests. However, we have to unite around the country's interests and with a definite goal, such as changing the state political structure, because the incumbent administration has had the opportunity to achieve constitutional changes and we have pressured and even talked to President Royo when he was a member of the high-level commission representing the government. We posed the need for changes, mainly in the way legislation is enacted.

We know that the economy in Panama is very poor. We know that the private sector is not investing and the Panamanian State alone cannot take on all the investments needed by the economy to create jobs and further the country's development. The public sector must have a field of activity which is always small. It constitutes about 30 percent of the overall investment in development. Therefore, if 70 percent must rest with private investment, it is natural that private initiative should have the conditions, the climate of investment and guarantees for its investments so that it can decide to invest.

A poll taken in Panama by a very responsible firm versed in economic matters concluded that 70 percent of those polled--I think it was 78 percent of those polled--said that the drop in private investment was due to the way laws are enacted.

[Question] Well, Mr Samudio, you have mentioned something that is very interesting: It is not the Liberal Party's desire to change persons but state structures.

[Answer] That is correct.

[Question] Could you briefly define for us the structural changes the Liberal Party wants?

[Answer] Of course. I say we are not interested in changing persons because we are not interested in changing Mr Royo. To us this is not important. The important thing is to change the structure of government.

When I speak of the government structure, I mean the outline and independence of the three state branches. As long as we have a legislative system such as the one we have now, there will be no security or seriousness in the handling of public affairs, no climate of tranquillity and calm necessary for the development Panama needs so much. The large mass of citizens who are expecting an answer in regard to social affairs will not have one until adequate social legislation is enacted to respond to these enormous popular demands.

BRIEFS

1978 TAX REVENUE--According to a report issued by the finance and treasury minister, the Panamanian State collected $394,272,000 in taxes during 1978. It is expected that the figure for 1979 will be $462.5 million, with an increase of more than $68 million over last year's figure. [Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 30 Jan 79 pp 1-A, 6-A PA]

CENTRAL AMERICAN MEETING REPRESENTATIVE--Commerce and Industry Minister Juan Jose Amado will head the Panamanian delegation to the fourth annual Central American meeting to be held this year in New Orleans. He will be accompanied by the director of tourism, the president of the Chamber of Commerce, and the general manager of the Colon Free Zone. It was officially reported that U.S. Ambassador to Panama Ambler Moss will also attend to expound upon the effects of the Torrijos-Carter treaties on Panama's economy. [Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 5 Feb 79 PA]

CLEANUP OPERATION PLANNED FOR NORTHERN BORDER

PA051908 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1723 GMT 5 Feb 79 PA

[Text] San Jose, 5 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Residents of the region of Santa Cecilia near the Nicaraguan border have charged that Nicaraguan National Guardsmen have been violating Costa Rican territory. The border region has been the site of constant incidents during the past few months. Residents have complained that Nicaraguan guardsmen have destroyed their crops and opened fire on them without just cause.

The San Jose newspaper LA NACION today reported that the Santa Cecilia residents have been living in fear because the Costa Rican police--this country does not have an army --have been withdrawn 30 km inside Costa Rican territory, specifically to the town of La Cruz. A young Costa Rican girl was shot to death by a Nicaraguan soldier 2 weeks ago. Farmers' houses were set on fire and a Nicaraguan military plane opened fire on peasants working in their fields.

Those incidents have led to the planning of a large-scale "mopup" operation by the Costa Rican Civil Guard aimed at preventing the incursion of Nicaraguan soldiers.

According to residents of the border region, for the time being they are defenseless even though the Public Security Ministry has announced that military reinforcements have been sent to various towns. The farmers of Santa Ceclilia have abandoned their fields because of fear of attack. This has led to greater tension. Since Costa Rica broke relations with Nicaragua in November, the border incidents have been increasing because the Costa Rican Civil Guard has been withdrawn to avoid confrontations. Costa Rica broke relations specifically over a confrontation which left two Civil Guardsmen dead.

A high-ranking military officer told ACAN-EFE that the mopup operation will be undertaken this week to bring calm and return confidence to the residents of the border region. The Civil Guard officer admitted that there is danger of confrontations between the soldiers of the two countries, but that Costa Rica is willing to run that risk.

Operation Plans Criticized

PA052006 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 5 Feb 79 PA

[Station commentary]

[Text] The public security minister recently announced that the Civil Guard will carry out a mopup operation in the northern border region. The plan to make the northern region free of Nicaraguan National Guardsmen is an objective of high patriotic fervor, and it is obvious that the government has authority over the border region. The OAS mission has not been of any use. It has even been severely criticized by the residents of the region because of its proven lack of interest in the Somozist provocations and aggressions. How is it possible for international organizations to remain indifferent in the face of an aggression that has already caused several deaths?

The mopup operation in the northern region is important. Naturally, we must have our authority and sovereignty respected. But we must also bear in mind that we should not serve as cannon fodder for Somozist ambitions. Somoza is looking for a way to provoke a confrontation between Costa Rican authorities and the bloody army he leads.

We have already seen how poor peasants have been machinegunned. We have seen how a young Costa Rican girl and two Civil Guardsmen have been killed. Somoza wants to extend his bloodbath to Costa Rica. We cannot permit this. Somoza's authorities have very precise instructions to open fire on our people. We believe that it is wrong for Costa Ricans to unnecessarily allow themselves to be used in Somoza's bloody strategy. The plans for the mopup operation should be reviewed. OAS authorities should assume control of the border. It is better for the OAS or a neutral force to maintain control of the border rather than to continue exposing our authorities to Somozist aggression due to the indifference of the international organizations.

OAS OBSERVERS SUGGEST CLEARER BORDER WITH NICARAGUA

PA060320 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 6 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Juan Jose Echeverria Brealey, public security and government minister, said this afternoon that, at the suggestion of the OAS commission of observers, measures will be taken to implement treaties signed by Costa Rica and Nicaragua in 1976. The observers told Echeverria that it is necessary for the borderline between Costa Rica and Nicaragua to be drawn more accurately in certain sectors where confusion exists. They noted that this demarcation would fulfill one of the agreements signed in (Sivansa) in 1976.

The minister and the OAS agreed that talks would be initiated with the Nicaraguans through the OAS to coordinate the surveying and demarcation of the border in sectors where there is confusion.

The minister added that in the meeting with the observers it was also decided that it is necessary for the two governments to improve their coordination of administrative efforts carried out at Penas Blancas. This suggestion--like the one regarding demarcation of sectors where irregularities have occurred because of confusion regarding the borders--could be implemented with the OAS serving as coordinator with the Nicaraguan Government, since diplomatic relations have not yet been reestablished. The minister said that the aim is to offer better service to persons in transit between the two countries.

AMBASSADOR VIEWS COUNTRY'S POSITION AT UN

PA051512 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 5 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Rodolfo Riza Escalante, Costa Rican ambassador to the United Nations, said that Foreign Minister Calderon Fournier and Rodrigo Carazo give him freedom to work. A few weeks ago, political circles at the Legislative Assembly had widely commented on the differences between the foreign minister and our ambassador to the United Nations.

Piza stated at a special appearance before the assembly that although he is a hard person to get along with, he maintains harmonious relations with the government. According to Piza, the Costa Rican success at the United Nations is due to the ample freedom that Calderon Fournier and President Carazo have given him.

Piza Escalante told the assembly that our country is no longer alined. Therefore, it has the support of all nations.

Regarding the Nicaraguan issue, Piza said that Costa Rica had the full support of [word indistinct] for its political neutrality regarding all matters concerning today's world. My goal at the United Nations is to see that Costa Rica is respected because of its international neutrality, he said.

INVESTIGATION OF TUNA VESSELS TO CONTINUE

PA051414 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 5 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Investigations into the tuna fishing boats case will continue this week. The Puntarenas superior court will inspect the two vessels' radar. The Caribe and the Sea Fox are still being kept at Puntarenas Bay. The boats were captured at dawn on 18 January and were accused of illegally fishing in Costa Rican waters. Bail was paid on Thursday. The Sea Fox paid $75,161 and the Caribe $46,018.

BRIEFS

COFFEE RUST CONTROL--According to reports received by Costa Rican Agriculture Minister Dr Hernan Fonseca Zamora, the campaign currently underway to reduce the incidence of coffee rust disease has been effective. Only small outbreaks in areas of Carazo Department where there are no coffee plantations have been reported recently, and even these have been eradicated. Some (?2,800) technicians are currently working to evaluate the campaign to control Nicaragua's coffee rust disease the incidence of which has dropped markedly since the campaign has not been neglected in that country. It is expected that the disease will be eradicated soon. [San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0030 GMT 31 Jan 79 PA]

GUATEMALA

PRESIDENT LUCAS GARCIA TO TRAVEL TO NEW ORLEANS

PA060207 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 0030 GMT 6 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Guatemalan President Gen Fernando Romeo Lucas Garcia will leave for New Orleans tomorrow to participate in a Latin American trade conference. Officials and businessmen from five countries will participate in the conference [words indistinct] Guatemalan president. President Lucas Garcia will be accompanied by four Cabinet ministers and industrialists and businessmen interested in the event. It has been affirmed that Guatemala can benefit from this conference.

BRIEFS

MALARIA OUTBREAK--An outbreak of malaria in Fray Bartolome de las Casas, Barberena, Santa Rosa is being fought by the Malaria Department of the Public Health and Social Assistance Ministry. Apparently it was caused by mosquitos from Laguna del Pino. The outbreak is not considered widespread and the few cases detected are under control. [Guatemala City DIARIO DE CENTRO AMERICA in Spanish 30 Jan 79 p 5 PA]

NEW FUEL PRICES--Mining, Hydrocarbons and Nuclear Energy Secretary Col Jorge Luis Monzon has announced the new maximum retail prices for petroleum byproducts. They are as follows: 95-octane gasoline, 1.03 quetzals [presumably per gallon]; 87-octane gasoline, .967 quetzals; diesel oil, .593 quetzals, and kerosene, .56 quetzals. [Guatemala City DIARIO DE CENTRO AMERICA in Spanish 23 Jan 79 p 7 PA]

HONDURAS

ASSAILANTS BREAK INTO GUATEMALAN EMBASSY

PA051727 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1518 GMT 5 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 5 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--The Guatemalan Embassy in this capital was broken into at dawn on Sunday, the police reported today.

The assailants did not take anything important from the embassy but searched the files thoroughly and defecated on Ambassador Enrique Pellecer Lopez' desk. Several telephone calls were received at the offices of prominent Honduran newspapers alerting newsmen to the incident. Unidentified voices said: "We are Nicaraguan Sandinists. We broke into the Guatemalan Embassy and defecated on the ambassador's desk as a reprisal against the Somoza and Lucas Garcia regimes."

However, the local newspapers have not given much credence to the report that the assailants were Sandinists, because the Sandinists always claim credit for their actions through communiques.

The break-in was discovered by Guatemalan Army Sgt Maynor Chigna Pineda who went to the embassy to pick up some papers. The police reported that they found several fingerprints which they were investigating. Embassy spokesmen stated that so far, they are missing a recorder, a calculator and a set of pens with the ambassador's name engraved on them.

BRIEFS

POLIOMYELITIS OUTBREAK--Honduran authorities are very concerned at the outbreak of type two poliomyelitis in the northwestern part of the country. So far, five cases have been treated at Leonardo Martinez Hospital in San Pedro Sula, all of them involving children aged less than 1 year. A vaccination campaign has been planned. [San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 29 Jan 79 p 2 PA]

NICARAGUA

GERMAN POMARES DISCUSSES SANDINIST FRONT

PA051200 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Feb 79 PA

[Text] The following is an interview with German Pomares, leader of the Nicaraguan Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN]. This interview was made recently somewhere in Nicaragua and sent to Havana Radio. Pomares first refers to the imperialist mediation in progress in Nicaragua:

[Begin recording] We, in the midst of all the talks (?and what) the politicians are doing in Managua with gringo intervention, the famous high-level mediation commission as the gringos call it, we know that this is a way to try to get control over the Nicaraguan people's struggle. At a time when the people are close to victory over the tyranny, they are trying to obscure it with a false mediation. Whatever happens, we will not change our struggle plans. It is clear that they are engaged in an arms race. They are getting better equipment and training and we are searching everywhere for the few weapons that we can find to arm our people, the hundreds of fighters who are both abroad and in the country, hiding in Nicaragua, Esteli, Chinandega, Masaya, Managua and Leon. The people's fighters are there.

We believe that if they do not fall during our next offensive, they will at least become weaker. We do not know when the war will end but we do know that it has not ended. Our comrades are carrying out actions daily in Chinandega, Masaya, and Managua. Therefore, we are not changing our fighting position against the tyranny, whatever happens. What happens is that all these [words indistinct] who have cropped up in negotiations with the mediation commission sent by the gringos. If this mediation commission had the good intention which it claims to have, that is to prevent bloodshed in Nicaragua, it would have been sent on 10 (?December) when the people were aroused and had all the cities taken--if they truly wanted to prevent bloodshed. However, they let Somozism exterminate the Nicaraguan people [words indistinct] were going to exterminate the Sandinist Front.

However, they were mistaken. Then, when they realized that the Sandinist Front had come back stronger, they sent for the mediation commission and called in a few politicians to act as leaders of the opposition. I would like to know who are behind these leaders and how many people are supporting them. We have already learned that all these people want is to change the face of the tyrant. They are not even thinking about enacting reforms for the people; they are not going to change the misery of the people. They just want to change the tyrant's face.

We and all the Nicaraguan working people want a change in the system of government and such a change can only be guaranteed by the Sandinist Front with a popular revolutionary government. We have already planned such a government. The principle of the popular revolutionary government is part of our program. This principle should be clear to our revolutionary fighters. The Sandinist fighters must clearly know where they are heading, why they are fighting and why they are carrying a gun. They are carrying a gun to defend the interests of the people and not to defend the interests of politicians who have lived from politicking all this time.

Therefore, this mediation neither [word indistinct] nor dissuades us. On the contrary, our line has been drawn since October 1977 when we (?analyzed) the contradictions which exist in the system's economy and politics. This had previously been established but a spark was needed to set it off. We set it off in October 1977. Since then the Nicaraguan people have known that they have a strong vanguard which is armed and has a clear ideology. [end recording]

In another portion of the interview, German Pomares refers to the work under way in Nicaragua to establish a Sandinist army.

[Begin recording] We have been struggling to establish a Sandinist army since the creation of the Sandinist Front. We have tried to create it in action and in combat. We have now given it a military law. (?Everyone) who comes to the Sandinist Front will find a law to be observed. If he agrees with it, he joins the Sandinist Front and the Sandinist army which is being formed in the rural areas and the cities and towns.

We could say that as a traditional army, as far as the army of a state is concerned, we are not a professional army, but we are an army of the people, a whole people who are struggling against tyranny waiting for the guidance of the most conscientious and militarily capable comrades. Everything we have learned in the struggle has been developed into military experience and this experience is being transmitted to the youth of today and the Sandinists who are carrying guns. [end recording]

POPE ASKED TO AID OPPRESSED LATIN AMERICANS

PA051840 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 5 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Nicaraguan priest and poet Ernesto Cardenal said in Mexico City that it was time that Pope John Paul II took some action on behalf of the Latin American nations that are victims of military regimes.

In statements to the press in that capital, the Nicaraguan member of the Sandinist National Liberation Front denounced the complacency of the Vatican Foreign Office toward dictatorships on the continent. In this respect, Cardenal referred to the attitude of Apostolic Nuncio in Nicaragua Mnsgr Gabriel Montalvo, who attended a private party together with the Nicaraguan dictator while the National Guard massacred the people of Leon.

JUAN ALMEIDA INTERVIEWED ON ANNIVERSARY OF BREZHNEV VISIT

For a TASS interview with Juan Almeida, PCC Politburo member and vice president of the Council of State, in connection with the fifth anniversary of Brezhnev's visit to Cuba published in the 28 January Moscow PRAVDA, see the Latin America & Caribbean section of the 6 February Soviet Union DAILY REPORT.

CUBAN DELEGATION ACTIVE AT WPC MEETING IN EAST BERLIN

Rodriguez Comments on Nicaragua

FL051839 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 5 Feb 79 FL

[Text] Cuba believes that the Sandinist National Liberation Front--as vanguard--and other political forces can provide a real solution to the drama being experienced by the Nicaraguan people. This statement has been made by Cuban delegate Arsenio Rodriguez at the plenary session of the World Peace Council [WPC] [meeting in East Berlin] devoted to Latin America.

He stressed that the democratic and leftist forces in Nicaragua grouped in the United People's Movement are currently calling for developing the national front. The Cuban representative said this group is a possibility open to all anti-Somoza sectors and that it can become a practical and organizational instrument for the necessary unity of the Nicaraguan people.

Rodriguez condemned the interventionist maneuvers of the United States and, on behalf of the Cuban Movement for Peace and Sovereignty of Peoples, he supported the holding of an international conference of solidarity with Nicaragua. Cuba also supports the creation of a democratic and popular government with the participation of all the anti-Somoza forces headed by the Sandinist Front, (?he said).

During the WPC session, it was also agreed to proclaim 1979 as the year of Martin Luther King to mark the 50th anniversary of the birth of this North American fighter who devoted his life to defending the principles of peace, equality, justice, liberty and human rights.

Solidarity Resolutions Approved

PA052053 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 5 Feb 79 PA

[Text] The World Peace Council has agreed to convoke an international conference on solidarity with the Nicaraguan People to be held in Venezuela next summer. During special sessions being held in East Berlin, the WPC urged the world's peoples, governments and organizations to create committees in support of this conference and to show solidarity with the struggle being carried out by the Nicaraguan people against the dictatorship of Anastasio Somoza.

Rogelio Ramirez--head of a delegation of members of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, the Socialist Party and Nicaragua's Independent Liberal Party--affirmed that the violence of the Somozist dictatorship and imperialism have prompted the people of that Central American country to resort to various means of fighting--and especially armed struggle--in order to overthrow the dictatorship.

The WPC also approved the following resolutions during Sunday's meeting: A demand for broad amnesty in Uruguay; solidarity with the people of Chile, Vietnam, Kampuchea and Iran; and support for the second international conference of solidarity for Puerto Rican independence to be held in Mexico late this year.

Marcelino Jaen, head of the Panamanian delegation, proposed holding an international meeting to analyze and promote specific actions in view of the canal treaty between his country and the United States. Jaen also praised the Cuban Revolution and condemned the U.S. Government for maintaining its economic blockade against our government.

Astray Views Arms Race

FL051256 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1239 GMT 5 Feb 79 FL

[Text] The profits of the military industrial complexes allow them to finance propaganda campaigns and increase the danger of war, the Cuban delegation has charged at the World Peace Council meeting being held in Berlin, capital of the GDR.

Francisco Astray, member of the Cuban Movement for Peace and Sovereignty of Peoples, pointed out that these complexes are the principal economic beneficiaries of the arms race. They are, he added, promoters of the atmosphere of the threat of war and the first ones which do not want to see advances on the path of detente and disarmament. He added that the countries with the greatest arms production and investments have the highest inflation rates.

The Cuban delegate emphasized that the socialist community is the one principally interested in general and complete disarmament.

Delegation Proposes Award

FL051451 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1432 GMT 5 Feb 79 FL

[Text] Cuba has proposed that the highest decoration of the World Peace Council [WPC] be awarded to Heng Samrin, president of the Revolutionary Council of the Kampuchean People's Republic. The proposal, made by the Cuban delegation at the WPC meeting being held in Berlin, the GDR capital, is based on the contribution which the Kampuchean people's victory represents for peace. For the Cuban people, the triumph of the patriotic forces in Kampuchea also constitutes a commitment of solidarity, asserted Francisco Astray, member of the Cuban Movement for Peace and Sovereignty of Peoples. Astray emphasized tnat the alienating Maoist methods of forced collectivization of work and personal life cost that fraternal nation 3 million lives, besides the temporary destruction of their culture and the ruin of their economy.

ISLE OF YOUTH STUDENTS MARK ANGOLAN STRUGGLE ANNIVERSARY

FL051321 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1307 GMT 5 Feb 79 FL

[Text] The last of activities marking the 18th anniversary of the beginning of the armed struggle in Angola has been held at the Agostinho Neto rural school on the Isle of Youth with the participation of African and Cuban students. Representatives of Mozambican, Ethiopian, Namibian and Cuban students greeted the anniversary with emotional words full of joy over the revolutionary triumph in Angola.

(Luis Neto), charge d'affaires of the Angolan Republic in Cuba, made the closing remarks, and he underscored the historic significance of the date, which marked the beginning of his people's struggle against French and Portuguese neocolonialism [which lasted] until their total and definitive independence.

The activity ended with a cultural show and sports demonstrations by students of the four [as heard] African countries who are studying on the Isle of Youth.

NUNEZ JIMENEZ IN SPAIN FOR COOPERATION DISCUSSIONS

FL051121 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 5 Feb 79 FL

[Text] Cuban Vice Minister of Culture Antonio Nunez Jimenez has met in Madrid with Manuel del Prado, president of the Spanish-American cooperation center. They discussed possible Spanish cooperation in restoring Habana Vieja, architecturally considered the most important plaza in Latin America. They also discussed Spanish and Cuban participation in a meeting of Spanish-American experts on Caribbean culture to be held in Havana in late 1979.

In Madrid archives, Nunez Jimenez is studying unpublished maps of our island which will help to restore several monuments, including the Sanguily fort or castle in Baracca, our oldest city. Angel Grana of the Geography Institute of the Cuban Academy of Sciences is accompanying the vice minister on his research work.

HAVANA RADIO VIEWS DENG'S U.S. VISIT

FL051218 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 5 Feb 79 FL

[Text] Chinese Vice Premier Deng Xiaoping [Teng Hsiao-ping] has gone through a long and difficult process of degradation. The Beijing [Peking] leader now has turned from traitor to clown. Wearing a cowboy hat, an AFP report states, the Chinese mandarin was the protagonist in his own conquest of the American West when he attended a rodeo organized in his honor. Deng Xiaoping climbed aboard an old stagecoach, showing that he has nothing to learn from the North Americans in matter of publicity. Previously, the Beijing leader had played at being an astronaut at the NASA Space Center.

Meanwhile, the newspaper RUDE PRAVO has labeled Deng Xiaoping's speeches in the United States as frontal attacks against the socialist community, progressive forces and world peace.

BLAS ROCA VISITS MATANZAS INDUSTRIES

FL031353 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 3 Feb 79 FL

[Text] Blas Roca Calderio, member of the PCC Politburo and president of the People's Government National Assembly, has visited several shoe and leather industries in Matanzas City, where he chatted with the workers. In his tour Roca was accompanied by Julian Rizo Alvarez, member of the PCC Central Committee and first party secretary in Matanzas Province, and Deputy Jose Manuel Castillo, first party secretary in the municipality of Matanzas.

FRANCIA MESTRE PRAISES MATANZAS WORKERS

FL051900 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 5 Feb 79 FL

[Text] Rafael Francia Mestre, minister of agriculture and member of the PCC Central Committee, has asserted that the workers of Matanzas Province are doing responsible work, and that this year they will certainly achieve the objectives they have proposed for themselves in the agricultural-livestock sector.

The minister made the statement at the end of a tour of the Victoria de Giron citrus fruits enterprise, the packing plants of Torriente and agricultural enterprises in the municipalities of Jaguey Grande, Calimete, Colon, Perico and Cardenas.

Francia Mestre hailed the degree of organization and coordination that exists between the administration and workers and particularly the latter's political development, which is expressed in the commitments they assume at their meetings.

Francia Mestre was accompanied on his extensive tour of the citrus enterprise by Julian Rizo Alvarez, member of the PCC Central Committee and party first secretary in Matanzas; (Grigoryevich Vichenkiy), adviser to the Agriculture Ministry; vice ministers of agriculture and other officials.

PINAR DEL RIO MEETING EXAMINES TOBACCO CROP

FL052038 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1903 GMT 5 Feb 79 FL

[Text] Chaired by Julio Camacho Aguilera, member of the PCC Central Committee and first party secretary in Pinar del Rio Province, a meeting was held in Pinar del Rio City today to examine the situation of the province's tobacco crop. Camacho Aguilera pointed out the efforts made by all organizations in support of that province's fundamental economic commodity and called for stabilizing tobacco production due to its importance in the country's economy.

The PCC Central Committee member urged all involved in the tobacco crop to increase production and to plant as many as 3,500 caballerias. During the meeting Fidel Ramos, member of Pinar del Rio Province Executive Bureau, stated that the tobacco crop now requires a great effort to save all that is planted.

PINEIRO RECEIVES COLOMBIAN COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER

FL051722 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 5 Feb 79 FL

[Text] Manuel Pineiro Losada, member of the PCC Central Committee and chief of its America Department, has met with Gilberto Vieira, secretary general of the Communist Party of Colombia. During the meeting, they exchanged views on the current situation in Latin America and the development of bilateral relations between the Communist Parties of Cuba and Colombia. Other America Department officials participated in the meeting.

FERNANDEZ MELL MEETS WITH PANAMANIAN ENVOY

FL051714 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 5 Feb 79 FL

[Text] Oscar Fernandez Mell, member of the PCC Central Committee and president of the People's Government Provincial Assembly of Havana City, has received His Excellency Miguel A. Picard, ambassador of the Republic of Panama to Cuba, who made a courtesy visit.

During the fraternal meeting, they discussed the development of friendly relations between the capitals of the two countries and future exchanges of experiences on their respective systems of government.